

OLL 84-4707

**Office of Legislative Liaison**  
Routing Slip

TO:		ACTION	INFO
1.	D/OLL		X
3.	DD/OLL		X
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4.	Liaison		
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9.			X
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SUSPENSE

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**MEMORANDUM FOR:**

ATTACHMENTS were sent  
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 - to keep in their files

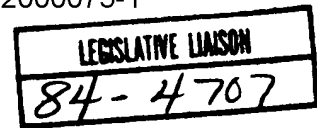
Date



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503**



*Referred*  
*Recor*

**December 4, 1984**

**LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM**

**TO: LEGISLATIVE LIAISON OFFICER**

**SEE DISTRIBUTION**

**SUBJECT: OMB draft bill introduced as S. 3080 (98th Congress),  
the "Congressional Reports Elimination Act of 1984"**

During the previous session of Congress, Senator Danforth introduced the "Congressional Reports Elimination Act of 1984" (S. 3080), the Administration's proposal to discontinue or amend requirements for recurring agency reports to the Congress. This legislation, which was circulated to the agencies on July 20, 1984, as a draft bill, would eliminate, consolidate, or modify recurring reports to the Congress that are no longer considered necessary or desirable. We intend to resubmit the proposal to the Congress early next year.

Therefore, agencies should review S. 3080 (copy attached) and provide comments (both substantive and technical) by January 4, 1985. Recommendations for expanding the legislation to modify or eliminate additional report requirements should follow the instructions contained in OMB Bulletin No. 84-10 (attached in part).

Direct your questions to Branden Blum (395-3454) the legislative attorney in this office.

  
James C. Murr for  
Assistant Director for  
Legislative Reference

**Enclosures**

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**\*Not included in 7/20/84 circulation.**



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503**

**BULLETIN NO. 84-10**

**March 28, 1984**

**TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES**

**SUBJECT: Reducing Executive Branch Reports to the Congress**

1. **Purpose:** This Bulletin provides instructions for the identification of recurring reports to Congress for potential elimination, consolidation, reduction in frequency, or other modification. This activity is designed to achieve cost savings and improve program efficiencies by reducing existing reporting requirements upon executive branch agencies and streamlining executive branch communication with the Congress. It is a follow-on to the review process which resulted in P.L. 96-470, the Congressional Reports Elimination Act of 1980 and P.L. 97-375, the Congressional Reports Elimination Act of 1982.

2. **Background:** In its report entitled The Cost of Congressional Encroachment, the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control stated:

"There is no question that Congress is entitled to information from agencies on Federal programs so as to properly discharge its Constitutional responsibilities. Unfortunately many of the reports Congress requires of the Executive Branch are: not useful, excessively costly to produce, no longer relevant, and not even read or used by their intended audience, as will be shown. Worse, the number of reports Congress requires has been rising."

The report contained an explicit recommendation that OMB "seek legislation that would eliminate requirements for the Executive Branch to produce reports for Congress that are expensive and unnecessary."

Together the "Congressional Reports Elimination Act of 1980" and the "Congressional Reports Elimination Act of 1982" discontinued or modified about 150 recurring reporting requirements to Congress. This was accomplished after a review of over 2,000 congressionally mandated reports by all Federal agencies, OMB, and the General Accounting Office (GAO). These efforts resulted in a substantial reduction in the reporting burden on executive branch agencies, with a cost savings estimated by GAO and the Congressional Budget Office of over \$12 million annually.

Since all agencies continue to work under personnel and budget restrictions and since the number of congressionally mandated reports continues to grow by several hundred per year (a recent estimate is that at least 2,800 recurring reports must be submitted to the Congress), OMB believes that developing another legislative proposal in this area is desirable. In addition, a number of agencies have requested that OMB prepare another legislative proposal.

3. Action Required. Agencies are requested to provide recommendations to eliminate, simplify, or consolidate existing legislatively mandated reports. GAO maintains an inventory of reporting requirements for all agencies and has recently requested data to update the inventory. This request included a listing of agencies' current requirements, and should be a useful document in preparing recommendations. Agencies should consider all existing recurring requirements to fall within the scope of this exercise, with particular attention to those previously recommended for termination or modification (Attachment 1) but not enacted as part of P.L. 96-470 or P.L. 97-375.

Suggested criteria for identifying reports for elimination or modification include:

a. Duplication and overlap with other reports (i.e., information provided to Congress by the agency in another form, or information provided by other agencies or the public);

b. Reporting burden and other costs (i.e., cost and reporting burden to the reporting agency and other Federal agencies, or cost and reporting burden of collecting information from outside the Federal Government);

c. Original rationale for requiring report (i.e., is this rationale still valid?);

d. Uses (i.e., use to the reporting agency, and use to Congress in the opinion of the agency).

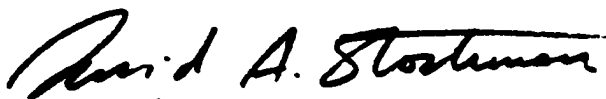
After OMB review of agency recommendations and consultations with the GAO, the Administration will propose an omnibus bill similar to P.L. 96-470 and 97-375. Upon its introduction all agencies will be asked to contact relevant congressional committees to discuss their individual legislative recommendations.

4. Material To Be Submitted. Recommendations should be submitted in accordance with the format in Attachment 2. Statutory references must be as complete as possible, following precisely this format. All eliminations should be given Section 100 numbers. All consolidations, reductions in frequency, or other modifications should be given Section 200 numbers. In addition, a section-by-section analysis and justification for each recommendation should be provided as shown in Attachment 2.

Agencies are requested to provide the principal reason for the recommendation, and to the extent possible, estimates of cost savings associated with each recommendation. An explanation should be provided in instances in which reports previously included in the 1982 bill, but not enacted, are not included in this year's list.

Material should be sent within 45 days of issuance of this Bulletin to the Director, Office of Management and Budget, c/o Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Room 3208, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503.

5. Notification and Inquiries. Upon receipt of this Bulletin, please notify the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (395-7316) to identify the officials in your agency who will be responsible for this review. Inquiries concerning this Bulletin may also be directed to this Office.

  
David A. Stockman  
Director

#### Attachments

- Attachment 1 - 1982 bill identifying those sections not enacted as part of P.L. 97-375
- Attachment 2 - Sample format for required material .

ATTACHMENT 1

BULLETIN NO. 84-10

II

97TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S. 2258**

To discontinue or amend certain requirements for agency reports to Congress.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 23 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 22), 1982

Mr. DANFORTH (for himself, Mr. ROTH, Mr. CHILES, and Mr. EAGLETON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

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**A BILL**

To discontinue or amend certain requirements for agency reports to Congress.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That this Act be cited as the "Congressional Reports Elimi-  
4       nation Act of 1982".

5                   **TITLE I—ELIMINATIONS**

6                   **REPORTS BY MORE THAN ONE AGENCY**

7       SEC. 101. (a) Section 3104(b) of title 5, United States  
8       Code, is repealed.

9       (b) Section 4396 of the Revised Statutes (16 U.S.C.  
10       744; 24 Stat. 523) is amended by striking out "He shall